

**THE BOOK OF JOB: WITH AN  
INTRODUCTION AND NOTES FOR BIBLE  
CLASSES IN COLLEGES, CHRISTIAN  
ASSOCIATIONS, YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
SOCIETIES, AND THE PRIVATE STUDENT**

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The book of Job: with an introduction and notes for Bible classes in colleges, Christian associations, young people's societies, and the private student by William Johnston Zuck

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**WILLIAM JOHNSTON ZUCK**

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# THE BOOK OF JOB

WITH AN

## INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

FOR BIBLE CLASSES IN COLLEGES, CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES, AND THE  
PRIVATE STUDENT

BY

WILLIAM JOHNSTON ZUCK

*Professor of English Literature in Oberlin University*



DAYTON, OHIO  
UNITED BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE  
1898

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TO MY  
FATHER AND MOTHER  
WITH  
SINCERE AFFECTION





## PREFACE

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THIS book represents the experience of the college recitation-room. No part of the one year devoted to the study of the Old Testament has been more interesting, and, I believe, more profitable, than that given to the Book of Job. Naturally, the Bible has never had more exacting readers than those found in our colleges and universities. From actual experience, I have found that none can possibly be more appreciative of its literary value. It is to be hoped that for this reason, if for no other, the Bible will soon be given a place in the curriculum of every college in the land.

All scholars are agreed that the Hebrew of the Book of Job is exceedingly difficult. It was Luther who said, "Job is suffering more from my version than from the taunts of his friends." For this reason many commentators have made their own translation, seeking to bring out as each is able to understand it the genius and suggestiveness of the language.

The present work is based upon the Revised Version, with many of the preferences of the American Old Testament Revision Company incorporated in the text. The divisions into chapters are indicated in the margin simply for convenience of comparison with the Authorized and Revised versions. The paragraphs or sections of the text are made not with reference to the parallelism of Hebrew versification, a feature altogether too technical for the average student of literature, but rather with regard to due subordination of the thought and ease of interpretation.

The feature to which special attention is called is that of the supplementary readings at the lower margin on each page. These readings are from three separate translations, and furnish to the reader at a glance the most striking differences in the attempt to convey in English the sense of the original. Professor John F. Genung, in a letter to me, says of his translation that it "differs from the current one generally in the direction of greater literalness. Yet my interpretation of that literalness was made not

only with the linguistic, but with the literary feeling; regard being had to the translation not only of the idea, but of the emotion and the suggestiveness due to order of words, turns of expression, and the like, so far as these things are amenable to translation." Dr. Cowles has departed from the word-for-word translation to express in a prose translation more fully the logical relations of the several clauses to each other and to the main argument, introducing in brackets for this purpose "some connecting and explanatory words or clauses." The translation by Professor Noyes, of Harvard, though much the oldest, is of special interest and value because of its smoothness and adaptability to the requirements of the average reader. It is designed that these readings, with the text, shall furnish a comparative study from four translations, each from a different point of view; and in this way will come to light shades of meaning and color otherwise concealed from view.

For the cordial permission to use their translations as I have done in this book, I wish most gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of Professor John F. Genung, of Amherst College, and of D. Appleton & Company, and the American Unitarian Association of Boston, publishers respectively of the works of Dr. Henry Cowles and Dr. George R. Noyes.

The notes have been prepared not only to make clear the meaning of difficult words and expressions, but to stimulate the reader and student to some thinking and inquiry on his part. For college classes it is recommended that a text-book of rhetoric be kept within easy reach for constant reference.

The study of the Book of Job has been to me a great delight. I trust that this presentation of it will be helpful to others.

OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY, March, 1898.

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